

Abstract

A method and an apparatus are provided to demultiplex an optical signal having a plurality of channels at a predetermined channel spacing having demultiplexing means with a frequency spacing larger than the predetermined channel spacing for receiving the optical signal and for dividing the optical signal by wavelength into a plurality of wavelength streams broader than the predetermined channel spacing, time domain demultiplexing means for receiving one of the plurality of wavelength streams and for dividing the one of the plurality of wavelength streams into a plurality of time domain demultiplexed wavelength streams, and optical filtering means for demultiplexing one of the plurality of time domain demultiplexed wavelength streams into a single channel. Advantageously, splitting means are provided to split the optical signal into sub-signals before launching them into the demultiplexing means.